

December 1992

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Recommended Citation

Molly W. Lien, *International Law: The Relationship between Law and the Processes of Social Integration and Disintegration*, 68 Chi.-Kent L. Rev. 171 (1992).

Available at: <https://scholarship.kentlaw.iit.edu/cklawreview/vol68/iss1/15>

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INTERNATIONAL LAW: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LAW AND THE PROCESSES OF SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND DISINTEGRATION

A century ago, with few exceptions, the study of law focused on the need for lawyers to master the legal norms articulated by state and local governments, with an occasional inquiry into the Constitution and laws of the United States. In recent decades, the study of law has centered on the development of national norms, both in the sense of "federal" law, and in the analysis of trends in the common law, not merely within individual states, but in the nation as a whole. The greater breadth of inquiry brought with it a greater breath of knowledge to solve increasingly complex economic, regulatory, and social problems.

Now, however, we have become members of a global society. The ability to analyze legal norms requires an understanding of the legal rules, institutions, and traditions of both the international community and its myriad members with their widely diverse legal traditions. "Lawyering" in the upcoming century will involve solving problems with a recognition of the pervasive presence of international legal norms. The essays that follow illustrate some of the most fundamental areas of concern.

First, as Buckminster Fuller pointed out three decades ago, we are all passengers on "Spaceship Earth" and all have a stake in the protection of the environment. In *Regional Integration and the Environment: The Evolution of Legal Regimes*, Professor Fred Abbott examines the extent to which increased regionalization in trade may affect international efforts at environmental protection. Regionalized trade partners among wealthy nations may adopt environmental standards more stringent than those of less wealthy nations. These differing regional environmental agendas may in turn adversely impact both on global environmental issues and on the ability of developing nations to enter global, as opposed to regional markets.

Another global concern is the protection of human rights. The disregard of human rights breeds violence and political instability. Disintegrating states are striving to establish new identities, often against the backdrop of ancient canvases of ethic and nationalistic tensions. In his essay, *The Protection of Human Rights in Disintegrating States: A New Challenge*, Professor Bartram Brown examines the difficulties in develop-

ing international norms for the protection of human rights, given the "state-centric" character of international law.

Finally, without question, many members of the global community are in the process of dramatic economic change. In his essay, *Integration, Disintegration, and the Protection of Competition: Of Images, Stories and Myths*, Professor David Gerber writes about the extent to which law can and must play a role in the construction of these new economic communities. His thoughtful and poetic analysis examines both integration of the European Community and the disintegration in the former Soviet Union.

As our political, economic and social concerns grow to include the stories of those a world away, so must our knowledge and understanding of the means to solve these international legal problems.

Molly Warner Lien